

Preliminary Amendment
Division of Serial No. 09/709,390
Our Ref: Q61767

REMARKS

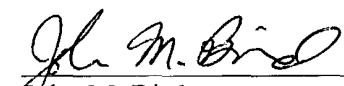
Claim 7 has been amended to eliminate the multiple dependency. New claim 46-48 have been added to depend from claim 4-6, respectively. No new matter has been added.

This divisional application is directed to Species 26 of parent application 09/709,390, which reads on claims 1, 2-4, 7, 34, 38, 42, and 46.

Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is allowable over Nicot (US 5,611,545), cited by the Examiner during the prosecution of 09/709,390, at least because Nicot does not teach or suggest the claimed wheel bearing having a second elastic material interposed at an engagement of the first annular sealing plate with one of the first and second members which is rotatable.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



John M. Bird
Registration No. 46,027

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 1, prior to the first paragraph insert the following new paragraph:

-- This is a divisional of Application No. 09/709,390 filed November 13, 2000; the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 15-33, 35-37, 39-41, and 43-45 are canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

Claim 7 (Amended). The wheel bearing as claimed in ~~any one of Claims claim~~ 3 to 6, wherein a surface of the first annular sealing plate which forms the engagement has a surface roughness not greater than Rmax 3.0.

Claims 46-48 are added as new claims.